

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06628 052126Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /153 W

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R 052034Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1398

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6628

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PINT BL

SUBJ: GOB ANNOUNCES DISCOVERY OF NEW PLOTS

1. MINISTER OF INTERIOR CASTRO ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 31 THAT GOB HAS DISCOVERED AT LEAST TWO NEW SUBVERSIVE PLOTS, THEREBY EXPLAINING SERIES

OF ARRESTS CARRIED OUT BY MININTERIOR AGENTS OCTOBER 29 AND 30. AMONG PROMINENT POLITICIANS ARRESTED WERE PDC LEADER BENJAMIN MIGUEL, EX-MINISTER OF PLANNING JULIO PRADO SALMON, ANIBAL MICHEL OF MNR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND RETIRED MAJOR ELIAS BELMONTE. ALSO DETAINED ON OCTOBER 31 WAS GENERAL CESAR RUIZ VELARDE, RECENTLY-APPOINTED CHIEF OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT OF ALLEGED PLOTS APPARENTLY INVOLVED EFFORTS BY DISCONTENTED MOVIMIENTISTAS PRADO AND MICHEL TO ENLIST MILITARY SUPPORT FOR MOVE AGAINST BANZER GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO CASTRO, THESE PLANS WERE ONLY IN TALKING STAGE WHEN MININTERIOR MOVED PRE-EMPTIVELY TO ABORT PLOT.

3. ARREST OF EX-MAJOR BELMONTE, WHO WAS ONE OF FOUNDING MEMBERS EARLY IN 1973 OF BONZALO ROMERO'S SMALL MAN PARTY, FOLLOWED BELMONTE'S EFFORTS TO PUT TOGETHER RIGHT-WING CONSPIRATORIAL GROUP AGAINST GOVERNMENT. DETENTION OF MIGUEL, TOGETHER WITH PRIOR ARREST OCTOBER 27 OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PDC YOUTH WALTER VARGAS HURTADO, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 06628 052126Z

APPEARS TO BE PART OF GOB EFFORT TO WARN PDC TO SOFTEN ITS PERENNIAL

CRITICISMS OF ALL GOVERNMENT ACTS AND POLICIES.

4. THE DISPOSITION OF THOSE ARRESTED FOR PLOTTING IS AS FOLLOWS:
COL. MICHEL AND MAJOR BELMONTE WERE EXILED TO PARAGUAY ON NOVEMBER 1;
GENERAL CESAR RUIZ WAS RETIRED FROM THE ARMY; PRADO SALMON WAS
RELEASED
ON NOVEMBER 2, BENJAMIN MIGUEL APPARENTLY CONTINUES IN CUSTODY.
STEDMAN

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